



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PRODUCTION – SEPTEMBER 2018

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on September 1 conditions, **sugarbeet** production in Montana is forecast at 1.47 million tons, according to the September 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is up 5 percent from the 1.40 million tons produced in 2017. Growers expect to harvest 42,700 acres this year compared with 42,700 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 34.3 tons per acre, up 1.0 tons per acre from the August 1 forecast and up from last year's yield of 32.7 tons per acre. As of September 2, Montana's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 5 percent poor, 59 percent fair, 11 percent good, and 25 percent excellent.

Lentil production for 2018 is estimated to be 4.90 million hundredweight, up 12 percent from last year. Area harvested is forecast at 480,000 acres, down 190,000 acres from 2017. Yield is estimated to be 1,020 pounds per acre, up 370 pounds per acre from last year. As of September 2, 87 percent of lentils had been harvested.

Montana **dry edible pea** production, forecast at 3.84 million hundredweight, is down less than one-half percent from last year. Acres harvested are estimated at 320,000, down 32 percent from 2017. Yield is expected to be 1,200 pounds per acre, up 380 pounds per acre from last year. As of September 2, 92 percent of dry edible peas had been harvested, compared with 97 percent last year and the five-year average of 92 percent.

Austrian winter pea production in Montana for 2018 is estimated to be 72,000 hundredweight, up 188 percent from last year. Acres harvested in 2018 are estimated at 8,000, up 4,000 acres from last year. Yield, at 900 pounds per acre, is up 270 pounds per acre from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Production of **sugarbeets**, for the 2018 crop year, is forecast at 36.0 million tons, up 2 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.10 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. Expected yield is forecast at 32.8 tons per acre, an increase of 1.1 tons from last year.

Production of **lentils** is forecast at 8.79 million cwt, up 17 percent from a year ago. Planted area, at 785,000 acres, is down 29 percent from last year, while harvested acreage, at 758,000 acres, is down 26 percent from 2017. The average yield is expected to be 1,159 pounds per acre, up 427 pounds from last year's drought-stricken crop.

Production of **dry edible peas** is forecast at 13.9 million cwt, down 2 percent from last year. Planted area, at 865,000 acres, and harvested area, at 824,500 acres, decreased by 23 percent and 22 percent, respectively. The average United States yield is expected to be 1,683 pounds per acre, up 333 pounds from 2017.

United States **Austrian winter pea** production is forecast at 146,000 cwt, up 17 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 16,500 acres, down 38 percent from a year ago. This is the lowest planted area since 2001. Area harvested is expected to total 11,900 acres, up 27 percent from 2017. United States yield, at 1,227 pounds per acre, is down 103 pounds from a year ago.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.

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